

CONFERENCE *connection*

Alabama • Georgia • Mississippi
South Carolina • Tennessee • NW Florida

SOUTHEAST UCC Conference



April 15, 2017

Annual Meeting Registration is Now Open!

We're excited for this year's annual meeting taking place again at lovely Piedmont College from **June 8-10, 2017**.

[Registration is now open!](#)

We will be offering a number of options for renewal and continuing education for our Authorized Ministers and MIDs around Annual Meeting.



Thursday, June 8:

- **Retreat for Authorized Clergy:**
 - *Registration and Fellowship 9:00 -10:00 a.m., Retreat 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*
 - There will be a day-long clergy retreat led by Kate Stulce. The details of this event be available soon. Kate is a Spiritual Director and serves Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Chattanooga as the Pastoral Associate for Spiritual Enrichment.
- **Healthy Boundaries Training**
 - *Training 101: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
 - These workshops are intended to equip ordained, commissioned, and licensed Clergy to understand healthy boundaries in ministry relationships. This training is in conjunction with our Disciples of Christ siblings. All authorized ministers are encouraged to participate in Boundary Awareness training at least every three years.
- **Pastoral Issues in Addiction - A Retreat for MIDs and PIEs**
 - *12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m.*
 - We will consider the latest research on the nature of addiction and addictive behaviors; become familiar with the content, structure, and efficacy of Twelve-Step Programs; and- through a series of case studies - probe the spiritual and pastoral help that we might be able to offer to those suffering with addiction.

Friday, June 9

- **Pastoral Issues in Addiction - Retreat for MIDs and PIEs continues**

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Coming Events

Tim Garver-Leighton Installation

Sunday, April 23
*Federated Church,
Demorest GA*

SECUCC Staff Meeting

Monday, May 1
10:00 am
Atlanta, GA

Commission on Ministry

Saturday, May 20
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
*Pilgrim UCC
Chattanooga, TN*

Ecclesiastical Council for Marsha Brown

Sunday, May 21
Brookmeade UCC

- 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

- **SEC Board Meeting**

- 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

- **51st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference**

- 12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m.
- Annual Meeting on Friday will include times of worship, workshops, large group sessions and fellowship. Meals, beginning with Lunch will be included.

Saturday, June 10

- 51st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference
 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 - Annual Meeting on Saturday will include the Business Meeting for the Conference, times of worship, workshops, and fellowship.

Learn more about Annual Meeting [on our website](#).

Safe Sanctuary Roundtable at Annual Meeting

It's time to start planning for Annual Meeting, June 9-10, 2017.

If your church has discussed becoming a Sanctuary Church and/or Welcoming Church to refugees & immigrants, we would like to know so you can be included in a round table discussion at Annual Meeting.

In addition, if you are interested in setting up a display table in the common meeting/registration area, please let us know.

Contact Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator at dspearman@secucc.org no later by May 19, 2017.



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2017. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2017 prayer list](#).

Week of April 16

- Open Community UCC; Atlanta, Georgia
- Emmanuel UCC; Greenville, South Carolina
- Kristen Barner
- Kirk Foster
- Ellen Sims

Week of April 23

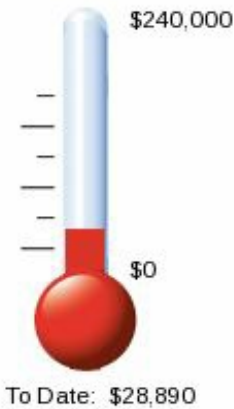
- First Congregational Church; Talladega, Alabama
- Edward Dahmer

Nashville, TN

SECUCC Annual Meeting

Fri-Sat, June 9-10
Piedmont College
Demorest, GA

OCWM Giving



Our Church's Wider Mission provides for programs, resources, and tools to keep our churches strong, effective, and growing. Our goal for 2017 is \$240,000.

[Donate today!](#)

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Week of April 30

- United Congregational Christian UCC; Columbus, GA
- Tonya Barnette
- Rodney Franklin
- Joyce Myers Brown
- Laura Landrum

Connect with Us!



Conference Transitions

- **Katharine Toledano** was recently installed as chaplain at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga.

Churches in Transition

Oak Grove Congregational Christian, Pine Mountain Georgia;
Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Howard Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; United Church, Huntsville, Tennessee; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville Tennessee.

News from Around the Conference

Spring 2017 Conference Grants Awarded

It is with great pleasure, on behalf of the Capital Campaign Review Committee, to announce the 2017 Spring Grant awards, made possible from the Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives Capital Campaign:

- PATHWAYS Theological Education of the Southeast Conference
- Rush Memorial UCC, Atlanta, Georgia
- Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee
- Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, South Carolina

To learn more about how each organization is using their grant award [visit our website for details](#).



Upcoming Local Church Events

Victory's 30th Anniversary Celebration (May 5 - 27)

- Join Victory for the World in Stone Mountain, GA for their 30th Anniversary Events
 - Friday May 5: Anniversary Concert
 - Sat May 13: Hats Pearls Fancy Socks Brunch
 - Sat, May 27: Cookout and Community Festival
- [Learn more on their website](#)

Marcia McFee at Kirkwood UCC (Saturday, May 6)

- Kirkwood UCC invites you to bring your team (program staff, worship associates, artists, musicians and other interested people) to discover ways to enliven and deepen your congregation's worship services. This conference will help you layer visual, auditory and experiential elements into a transformative worship experience. Breakfast and Lunch included. [Learn more on the KUCC website.](#)

Your Local UCC Congregation

- We'd love to share what is happening at your church. Send your announcements to dharris@secucc.org.

Going to General Synod? Let us know!

As you may know, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be in Baltimore this year. This event is open to everyone as a visitor. The Sunday afternoon worship service is open to all at no charge.

If you plan on going to Baltimore this year, please let [Heather](#) and [Marie](#) know. This way you can be invited to our meetings and fun stuff and feel a part of our merry band from the Southeast Conference!

News from the United Church of Christ

Your church or ministry could be featured at General Synod!

Is your church doing something to help build a just world for all? We want to know! Make a 30-60 second video of you or someone from your church telling us what you're doing.

Your video can show us anything you're doing to make a difference in caring for all God's children and God's creation. Some examples include:

- Your food pantry or food drive
- After-school program
- Tutoring
- Participation in community projects
- Help for the homeless
- Working to protect the environment
- Housing rehab

Send us your video and your church will be featured on screen at General Synod in Baltimore this summer!

Three things to remember:

- Video should be 30-60 seconds long.
- Shoot your video horizontally (hold the phone sideways).
- Email your video to jannsoha@ucc.org by May 30.

Thanks! We can't wait to see and hear your story!

Climate March in Washington, D.C. is April 29

The UCC Council for Climate Justice along with Justice and Witness Ministries are official co-sponsors of the climate march in Washington, DC. This march is being organized by the [People's Climate Movement](#) which spearheaded the 2014 march in New York City that had 400,000 in attendance. Let the

UCC know if you are planning to come, so they can coordinate a strong UCC presence at the march. [More info.](#)



In addition, the national leadership of the United Church of Christ is speaking out for God's creation. After President Donald Trump abdicated responsibility for climate change with a March 28 executive order that undoes the past administration's climate policies, revives the fossil fuel industry, cuts the EPA's budget and eliminates many climate research programs, this faith community will not stay silent. [Here is their statement.](#)

2017 Shari Prestemon Social Justice Interns

Back Bay Mission is a community ministry of the United Church of Christ located in Biloxi, Mississippi. They strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives through a variety of ministries that meet the immediate needs of the poor and marginalized and help people become self-sustaining. They are pleased to announce their two social justice interns for 2017: Katy Morton and Naimoi Gonzalez. Learn more about them [on the Back Bay Mission website.](#)

Resistance School launches at Harvard

Prof. Richard Parker at Harvard Kennedy School and his students have been working to create and launch Resistance School (resistanceschool.com). In the week since we first announced the School online, 30,000 people have signed up, from 49 states and 33 countries. It is the group's attempt to begin the long slow process of recovering and rebuilding our democracy. The four sessions are free and can be watched any time.

Training, Learning and Retreat Opportunities

Registration Now Open for PATHWAYS class: "What Does the Bible Say About Friendship?"

"No one has greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends," Jesus tells us in John 15:13 (Common English Bible). What makes a friend worthy of laying down one's life to save that friend? The Bible has much to teach us about the value of trusted companions for life's journey, especially the journey of discipleship that we as Christians are called to make.

- Course Dates: April 26 ~ May 23, 2017 (4 Weeks)
- Facilitator: Rev. Ruth Shaver, D.Min.
- Tuition Cost: \$99
- Regular Registration Fee is Due by April 19, 2017

This is a Explorer Series Course designed with a four-week long curriculum. All are invited to participate. [To register, visit the PATHWAYS website.](#)